

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment is requested.

Applicants elect to prosecute the subject matter of Group III directed to the recombinant soluble Fc receptor and pharmaceutical compositions containing the receptor as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3, with traverse. New claims 81-86 and 91-94 correspond to the claims of Group III (generally corresponding to canceled claims 41-45 and 59-61). New claims 87-90 are directed to corresponding nucleic acid sequences.

It is Applicants' position that the inventions listed in Groups I-XXVII do relate to a single general inventive concept and do not lack unity of invention under the PCT rules 13.1 and 13.2.

Applicants also respectfully request that the specific nucleic acid sequences encoding the receptors can easily be examined along with the elected subject matter.

The Examiner required election of one specific recombinant soluble Fc receptor containing one specific amino acid sequence. As amended, the claims recite an Fc receptor containing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 3 or 4. Applicants maintain that these two sequences can be easily examined together, and respectfully request that the Examiner do so. Furthermore, Applicants request that the Examiner also examine claims 87-90 directed to the nucleic acid sequences that encode the Fc receptor.

Application No.: 09/856,933

NY-HUBR 1189-US

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-HUBR 1189-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 7, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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